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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,691	12/15/2000	Vipin Samar	OR00-14201	6542
22835	7590	01/25/2005	EXAMINER	
A. RICHARD PARK, REG. NO. 41241 PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP 2820 FIFTH STREET DAVIS, CA 95616			SON, LINH L D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2135	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/741,691

Applicant(s)

SAMAR, VIPIN

Examiner

Linh Son

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2000.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-16,18-27 and 29-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,17 and 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-16,18-27 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/00
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is written in responding to the Amendment received on August 30th of 2004.
2. Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-27, and 29-33 are pending. Claims 6, 17, and 23 are canceled.
3. Applicant specified in the remarks that "the dependent claims 6, 17, and 23 have been canceled without prejudice". Examiner assumes that the applicant meant the dependent claim 28 is canceled instead of the dependent claim 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-27, and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardy et al, US Patent No. 6073242, hereinafter "Hardy".
6. As per claims 1, 12, and 23, As per claims 1, 12, and 23, Hardy et al disclose the "Electronic Authority Server" invention, which teaches the apparatus, and a method for facilitating the delegation of operations involved in providing digital signatures to a signature server (Col 7 lines 10-38), the method comprising: initializing a secure

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connection between the client and the server by using an encrypting link. The user sends the authority server a message including the authorization and the outgoing message to be signed (Col 8 lines 20-52). The authority server will then look up the user signing keys associates to his/her enterprise role, authority (Col 9 lines 18-27). Once the authentication process is completed, the server signs the message (Col 8 line 53 to Col 9 line 49, and Col 9 line 65 – Col 10 line 20). However, Hardy does not directly teach the authentication to the signature for message signing. Nevertheless, Hardy teaches the authentication requirement with the signing server to setup the secure connection to send the message to the server for signing (Col 7 lines 23-60, and Col 8 lines 7-35). Therefore, it would be obvious at the time of the invention was made for one having ordinary skill in the art to realize that the authentication mechanism to setup the secure connection is part of the authentication needed to sign the message.

7. As per claims 2, 13, and 24, Hardy et al disclose the method of claim 1, wherein prior to signing the item, the method further comprises authenticating the user (Col 9 lines 4-31).

8. As per claims 3, 14, and 25, Hardy et al disclose the method of claim 2, wherein prior to signing the item, the method further comprises determining whether the user is authorized to sign the item (Col 8 lines 29-31).

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9. As per claims 4, 15, and 26, Hardy et al disclose the method of claim 3, wherein determining whether the user is authorized to sign the item involves looking up an authorization for the user based upon an identifier for the user as well as an identifier for an application to which the user will send the signed item (Col 8 line 53 to Col 11 line 65).

10. As per claims 6, 17, and 28, Hardy et al disclose the method of claim 1, wherein comprising allowing the user to authenticate the signature server prior to sending the message to the signature server (Col 8 lines 20-35).

11. As per claims 8, 19, and 30, Hardy et al disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises configuring the signature server to accommodate a new user by: receiving a request from an authorized entity to add the new user; generating a key pair for the new user, including a new user private key and a new user public key (Col 20 lines 20-45); communicating with a certification authority to obtain a certificate for the new user based on the key pair (Col 20 line 65 to Col 21 line 18); and storing the certificate and the key pair for the new user in the location that is accessible by the signature server to enable the signature server to sign items on behalf of the new user (Col 9 lines 5-35).

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12. As per claims 10, 21, and 32, Hardy et al disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises archiving the message and the signed item at the signature server (Col 20 lines 15-16).

13. As per claims 11, 22, and 33, Hardy et al disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises forwarding the signed item to an archive server in order to be archived (Col 20 line 15).

Response to Amendment

Applicant argued that the Hardy does not teach the authentication process to the signature server prior sending the message. Nevertheless, Hardy does teach the authentication requires setting up the secured connection (Portholes) before the message being sent for signing. This authentication process is part of the authentication process to sign the message.

Conclusion

1. Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, and 23, which necessitated new grounds of rejection. See Rejections above.

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

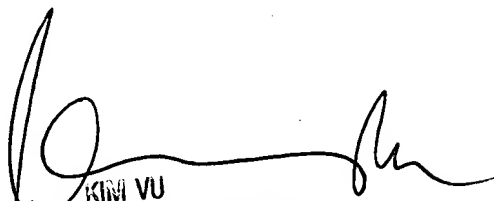
1. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Linh Son whose telephone number is (571)-271-3856.
2. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Kim Y. Vu can be reached at (571)-272-3859. The fax numbers for this group are (703)-872-9306 (official fax). Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (571)-272-2100.

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3. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PMR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pzr-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh LD Son

Patent Examiner


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2135